



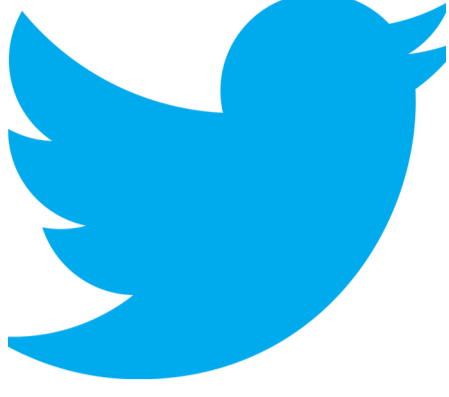
VOL. 1, ISSUE 4

CHE NEWS

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

FEBRUARY, 28 2018

Top stories in this newsletter



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CHE Joins Social Media

In an effort to ensure that data and information are readily accessible to students, families, and citizens of the State, the CHE has created a Twitter account to post current articles of interest, links to resources, and to announce new data published by the agency.

Please follow our account at [@SCCommHigherEd](#) to stay up to date and share our posts as they come out!

Additionally, check the front page of our website at [www.che.sc.gov](#) for links to reports generated by CHE.

Town Hall Tour Update and Upcoming Dates

The CHE has now held three town hall meetings around the state, in Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston, with well over 100 people attending each. Lively discussion at the events has centered on growing concerns about rising tuition costs in higher education and barriers to access and affordability. To view coverage of the meetings, click on the links below or check out the agency [Twitter page](#):

[Packed House for S.C. Commission on Higher Education Greenville Town Hall](#)

[Standing Room Only Crowd: Higher Ed Tuition, Debt Impact S.C. Families](#)

[The business model in higher education is 'not sustainable,' warns S.C. commission](#)

The next town hall meetings will be in Rock Hill tomorrow night, March 1st, at 5:30 p.m. at the Hood Center at York Technical College located at 375 South Anderson Road in Rock Hill and Myrtle Beach on March 15th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Mary C. Canty Recreation Center, located at 971 Canal Street in Myrtle Beach. The focus will again be on college access and affordability in South Carolina. In addition, scholarship personnel will be available 20 minutes before and after the event to answer questions students and families may have about state scholarships. Click [here](#) for more information on the [Rock Hill Town Hall](#). The future town hall meeting schedule is below, and information on specific locations will be distributed as details are finalized

[Rock Hill](#), Thursday, March 1, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

Meritor Room, Hood Center, York Technical College, 375 South Anderson Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730

[Myrtle Beach](#), Thursday, March 15, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

Mary C. Canty Recreation Center, 971 Canal Street, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

[Spartanburg](#), Thursday, April 5, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Beaufort](#), Thursday, April 19, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Florence](#), Thursday, May 3, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Aiken](#), Thursday, May 17, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Anderson](#), Thursday, June 7, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

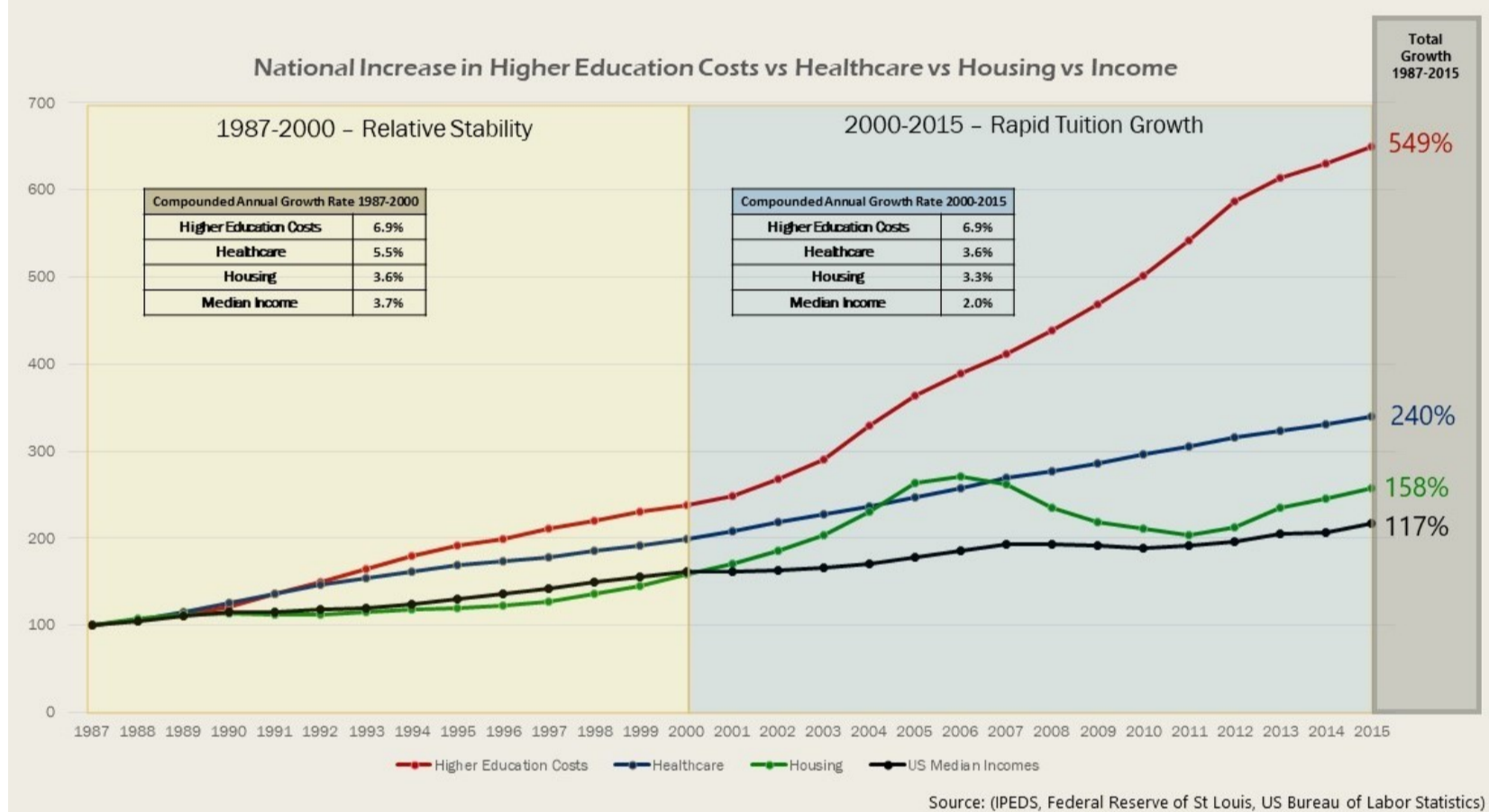
[Orangeburg](#), Thursday, June 21, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

For all events, please RSVP to Andrew Roof, administrative coordinator, at [arroof@che.sc.gov](#) or (803) 730-5638 if you plan to attend.

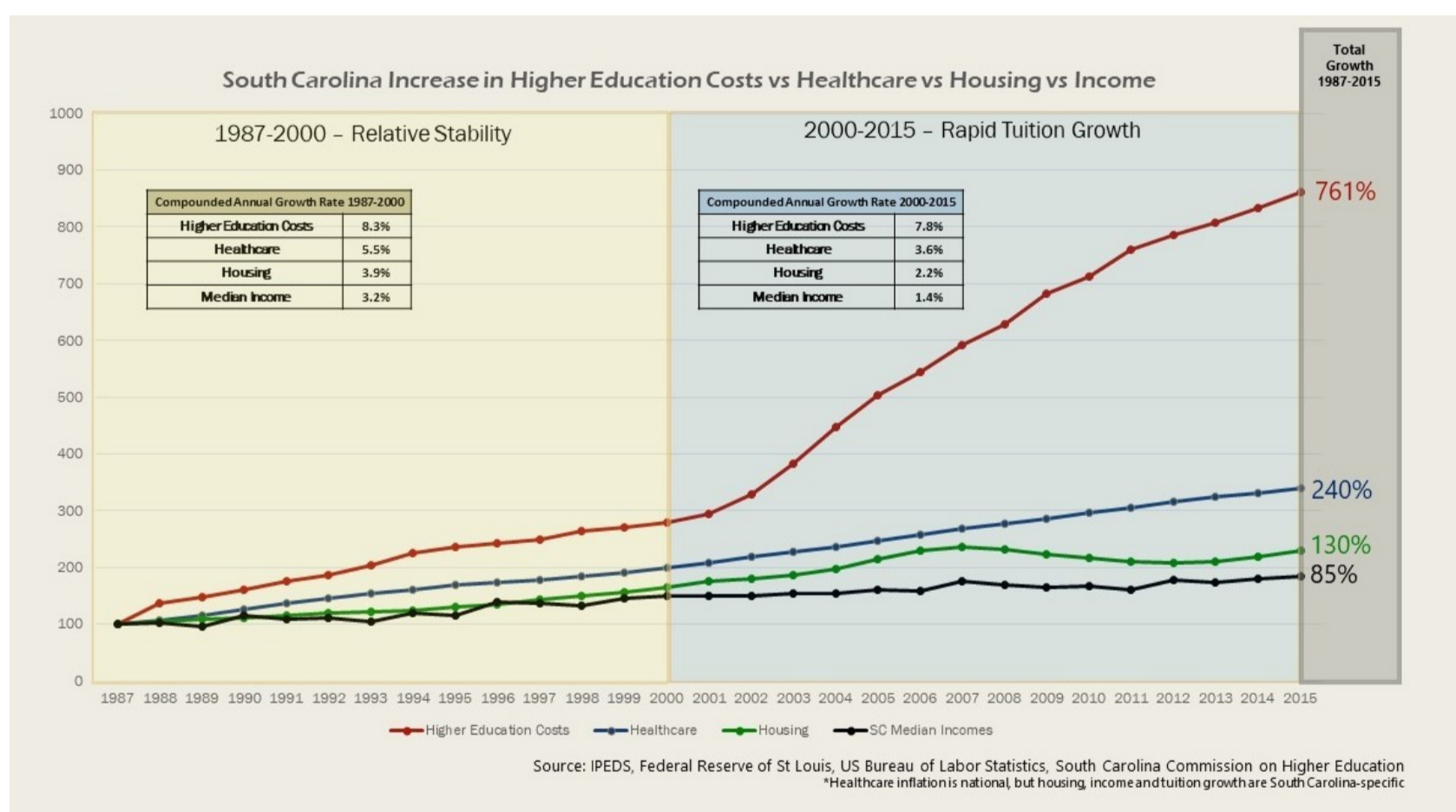
National and State Increases in Higher Education Costs

National data shows that the United States higher education system is at a crossroads.

Undergraduate enrollments are in decline and college costs continue to rise. Tuition and fees alone (not including room, board, and other ancillary costs) have outpaced inflation for three straight decades. For context, while healthcare is commonly thought of as the industry with the most shocking cost increases, over the last 30 years, national higher education costs have grown at a rate more than double that of healthcare, triple that of housing costs and nearly five times the growth rate of the median income level.



In South Carolina, the trends are even more troubling. Higher education costs are growing at a much faster rate than the rest of the nation and the average student debt is \$30,123, which, when measured as a percentage of median income, ranks seventh in the country.



We look forward to working with South Carolina's institutions of higher learning and state policymakers to develop innovative solutions to counteract these troubling trends and bring sustainability to the state's higher education system.

CHE's Budget Presentation to the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee

The Commission on Higher Education presented its Fiscal Year 2018 –19 budget request to the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Harvey Peeler, on Thursday, February 22, 2018.

In addition to discussing the agency budget, the committee members asked Director Jeff Schilz to talk about trends in high school graduates attending institutions of higher education in S.C., data on diversity, enrollments, abatements, and budgets at the state's public colleges and universities, and the proper role and future of the CHE.

The agency looks forward to working with the legislature and institutions moving forward to continue to advance this important conversation about the mission of higher education in South Carolina.

To read *The State's* coverage of the hearing, visit [http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article201645384.html](#)

Program Productivity Update

In the January 2018 newsletter, the CHE announced the preliminary results of a comprehensive program productivity study, which showed that 153 academic programs (14 percent) at the state's public institutions were noncompliant with standards set by the Commission and the institutions. The CHE provided each institution with noncompliant programs a chance to explain these outcomes and develop improvement plans.

All institutions have now responded with their improvement plans or with plans for program termination, exemption, or probation. The CHE staff is currently evaluating institutions' responses and will provide recommendations to the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP), at its meeting on March 29th.

To view the CHE's preliminary program productivity results, click [here](#).

Articles of Interest

Articles discussing the sustainability problems in higher education are published frequently in major national news outlets. Read more for yourself:

The Washington Post: [Health care isn't our only ludicrously expensive industry](#)

The New York Times: [No College Kid Needs a Water Park to Study](#)

The Wall Street Journal: [The Rise of the Jumbo Student Loan](#)

The Hechinger Report: [OPINION: America's colleges and universities have a serious revenue problem](#)